

Always the visionary, he began several initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for inmates while housed at the jail. These initiatives include the Veterans Dorm, the Fatherhood Dorm, and the GED Dorm.

The Veterans Dorm was the first such initiative in the country and provided vast resources for those Veterans who were incarcerated. It helped them to deal with the ever-present issues of PTSD and substance abuse. In short, this initiative helped to prepare these Veterans for life after incarceration.

The Fatherhood Dorm initiative focused on inmates being able to be present fathers after their release from incarceration. This initiative focused on improving the literacy of fathers so that after their release they would have the literacy skills to better themselves and to be able to read to their children. Finally, the GED Dorm helped incarcerated individuals to obtain their GED's.

Because of these initiatives and his focus of Mental Health, Lt. Col Darr was responsible for the removal of a Federal Consent Decree that the jail had operated under since 1999.

Lt. Col Darr's remarkable service as Sheriff ended in 2016. He always looked for ways to help himself and his community. He came back at the Lt. Col for jail operations under current Muscogee County Sheriff Greg Countryman.

John Darr has held many titles in his life, but the most befitting is that of Servant. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." John Darr has paid his rent and he has paid it well.

Lt. Col Darr has accomplished much in this life, but none of it would have been possible with the love and support of his wife Linda and their four children: Rachael, Michelle, Courtney and Troy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Lt. Col John Darr on the occasion of his retirement from the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office and remarkable career in Law Enforcement. To God be the Glory.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAL PECK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all South Carolinians, I am grateful to wish World War II veteran, Mr. Harold (Hal) Peck, a happy 100th birthday.

Mr. Hal Peck, was born on February 22, 1923 in Shelbyville, Indiana. In the spring of 1943, he was drafted and made his way across the Atlantic, arriving in Normandy on June 17th, eleven days after D-Day, with the area having been secured. As a member of the 226th Signal Corps, he was a "climber," responsible for going up and down telephone poles to help keep the lines of communication intact. He did not carry a rifle while on pole duty, as he could not be perceived as a threat. The only shots he's taken, says Mr. Peck, deal with basketball.

After his wartime experience, he was recruited by one of his former high school bas-

ketball coaches to play for Tulane University, in New Orleans. At 5-foot-eight, he excelled in college basketball, and was asked by the National Basketball League Commissioner, Dovie Moore, to play on one of the National League teams. He declined the offer and instead decided to coach basketball in a little town in northern Indiana, Kewanna. After 5 years of coaching, he went on to become a successful businessman as an insurance salesman and executive.

In 1949, Mr. Hal Peck, married his Tulane sweetheart, the former Gwen Bailie. They had a happy marriage of 60 years, filled with adventure, having traveled to almost every country, with Goshen, Indiana as their home base. In 1992, they retired to Aiken, South Carolina. Hal and Gwen had 2 sons, Rich and Josh Peck, who we join in celebrating their father's birthday.

I also join the family and friends of Mr. Peck in congratulating him for the French Legion of Honor which he was awarded by the French government in October of 2022 for his service during the war. It is the highest distinction, rewarding eminent military and civil merits, that can be conferred in France on a French citizen as well as on a foreigner.

Today, I honor Mr. Hal Peck for his service to the American people and wish him a happy 100th birthday and the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF CLIFTON WHARTON, JR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of a man who has spent his entire life and career breaking racial barriers and paving the way for future generations of Black scholars and leaders. The name Clifton Wharton Jr. is known by many in the Michigan State University community thanks to a prominent campus landmark: the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts. But in addition to his name, I want them to know his story, as it features a persistent rise against the odds, a tale worthy of being staged inside the building that now bears his name.

By the time Clifton Wharton Jr. became president of Michigan State University—the first African-American to head a major, predominantly white university in the United States—he was no stranger to being first. Wharton, who grew up in Boston, entered Harvard University at age 16. There he became the first Black announcer at the campus radio station and the first Black secretary of the National Student Association, a lobbying group he founded. Later, he was the first African-American admitted to Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. He worked for about a decade with the Agriculture Development Council, a non-governmental agency, before returning to the academic world.

When the MSU trustees appointed him the University's 14th president in 1969, it was a time of tremendous change and cultural up-

heaval for the country, with college campuses taking center stage in the civil rights movement and protests over the Vietnam War. Against that tumultuous backdrop, Wharton set another first: unlike any other major university president of the time, he supported students who demanded that their concerns be heard, even offering to personally take student petitions against the war to Michigan's Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C.

Wharton's eight-year tenure at MSU's helm was marked by his successful efforts to maintain the quality of the University's academic programs in the face of major budget cuts, his commitment to serving underprivileged students, and the integration of the College of Osteopathic Medicine with the other medical schools. In 1978, Wharton achieved another first when he stepped down from MSU to become the chancellor for the State University of New York system, making him the first African American leader of the nation's largest university system.

But he wasn't done breaking barriers. In 1987, he was named the president and CEO of the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund, making him the first Black CEO of a Fortune 500 company. He held that role until 1993, when he became Deputy Secretary of State under President Bill Clinton, not surprisingly, the first African American to ever hold this second highest foreign policy post.

I salute Dr. Wharton for his groundbreaking career and the path of excellence he has blazed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ANTHONY RAMOS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the many contributions of Anthony Ramos, a long-time community leader and resident of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District, as we mourn his loss.

Anthony was a beloved community youth basketball coach and co-founder of the Dearborn Basketball Association, where he also served as vice president. He saw the community's need for affordable sports programming for young people and was moved to act. Anthony's love for the game inspired enthusiasm in the young people he coached. He instilled the values of good sportsmanship and importance of teamwork while teaching the fundamentals.

Please join me in honoring the life of Mr. Anthony Ramos and extending condolences to the Ramos family as the 12th Congressional District honors his life and legacy.

HONORING LEGENDARY EDUCATOR DR. EVA EVANS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 27, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a legend of Lansing, Michigan whose